



Hamilton

MINUTES

Hamilton Veterans Committee

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Room 192, 1st floor City Hall

Present: Chair: Bob Fyfe
Members: Dave Steckham, Marko Babic, Ed Sculthorpe, Dan Muir,
Art Tompkins, Keven Ellis, Rod Paddon, Councillors
Pasuta, B. Johnson

**Absent with
Regrets:** Geordie Elms

Also Present: Michael Leatham, Hamilton Signals Association
Paula-Ann Simon, Branch 163, Royal Canadian Legion
A/S/Sgt. John Canaris, Hamilton Police Service
Joey Coleman, The Public Record
Anna Bradford, Director, Tourism and Culture
Sarah Ehmke, Cultural Projects Specialist, Tourism and Culture
Rebecca Oliphant, Staff Liaison to HVC, Tourism and Culture
Division

CHAIR'S REMARKS: Remembrance of Fallen Comrades

1. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Added Items under 6 New Business

6.1 Veterans Affairs Delivery Roundtables

6.2 National Defence Policy Review Roundtable

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Johnson/Tompkins)

3.1 Hamilton Veterans Committee Meeting Minutes, dated 10 May 2016.

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 HVC Events Information / Procedure Manual

Members received a copy of Version 5 of the manual in their information packages. Created by Dave Steckham, the purpose of the manual is to ensure members are aware of what needs to be done in order to produce the annual Remembrance Day service and Garrison Parade each year. It is reviewed and updated after the event each year.

Dave Steckham – info update

Page 19 – Assembly at Gore Park, Veterans Place, Cenotaph – change highlighted paragraph to read “anytime Gore Park isn’t available, HVC will discuss alternate arrangements”.

4.2 Parking for Veterans in Hamilton

The Hamilton Veterans Committee has been advocating for a revision to the City’s policy regarding Veterans Parking (must be 60 years old and a Veteran of the World Wars or Korea and apply for a window pass) since 2010.

In September of 2015 a pilot program was introduced wherein any Veteran with the notable exception of the RCMP could park for free at City meters or parking lots. Because of the exception of the RCMP it was necessary to continue with the need to have a window pass.

Parking and By-law Services will report on the pilot program to the General Issues Committee in September 2016.

4.3 Veterans Place at Gore Park – Security

A/S/Sgt. John Canaris attended for Inspector Mike Worster.

The CCTV cameras have been re-positioned to deal with skateboarders. The cameras do not capture faces which makes follow-up difficult. There have been no incidents since the cameras were re-positioned. Response is an immediate-radio dispatch from the monitor to the police assigned to that area.

Joey Coleman, Beasley Neighbourhood Association, noted for the committee that the skateboarders were identified by the Skate Assembly. The skateboarders have been educated about the significance of the Cenotaph with the hope they will find other areas to skateboard.

4.4 Mini decoration days

Currently the HVC hosts two Decoration Day services – Decoration Day, the second Sunday in June at Woodland Cemetery and East Hamilton Decoration Day, the last Sunday in August at Eastlawn Cemetery. The committee has been discussing combining the two services and alternating between cemeteries each year.

During discussions about getting youth involved, Art Tompkins suggested the committee start a program of mini decoration days. For those families who wanted to decorate their own Veteran’s graves rather than attend the main service, volunteers, perhaps cadets, could be stationed in any cemetery with a cenotaph, monument or clusters of veterans’ graves.

When Decoration Day began (before Remembrance Day) families would gather at the graves to plant flowers and share stories. It was a social occasion.

For discussion at a future meeting:

- Ask City Council to declare an official date for Hamilton's Decoration Day.
- A guide could be issued much the same as Doors Open Hamilton does each year.
- Cadets would have to know by September dates for future events

4.5 Invitation to Minister of Veterans Affairs

Wait to re-issue invitation to the Minister until after the Roundtable meetings with MP Bratina (see Item 6.1).

Important that the committee have an Agenda for what info HVC wants to share, for example: events HVC has taken responsibility for to ensure they continue, how can HVC can assist the Minister and vice versa.

4.6 Afghanistan Memorial

Update: Keven Ellis

North Wall Riders Association (NWRA) are working towards an Afghan memorial in Hamilton. Colonels and Honourary Colonels are endorsing such a memorial. NWRA has been awarded a LAV which will be the centerpiece of the memorial. Production to refit the LAV to allow it to be used as a memorial will happen in Oct for completion by Dec. Installation will be in Spring 2017. Location has been confirmed but confidential at this time.

4.7 Change of meeting day discussion

See Item 3.2 of Orientation minutes. For further discussion at August 9 meeting.

4.8 Web presence for HVC

Status: HVC to determine what information they want on the website and provide to Web Redevelopment Team for review.

Original intent for greater web presence was to have a Calendar of Veterans Events in order to encourage attendance at all Veterans events not just Remembrance Day.

HVC could use the NWRA Facebook page as a Calendar example.

Staff to invite Andrea McKinney, Director of Communications and Intergovernmental Affairs, to a future meeting.

Note: Keven and Paula Ann have experience with Facebook and tweeting

4.9 Artillery Pieces

Three German artillery pieces were presented to the City in 1920 by the Canadian War Trophies Board. Beginning in 1994, the guns, which were actively decaying due to exposure to weather, were removed from outdoor display to a storage facility and given conservation treatments.

In 2010, the National Artillery Museum (Shiloh, Manitoba) expressed an interest in acquiring the guns. Gifting the remaining guns to the National Artillery Museum would have allowed them to be cared for and displayed in an indoor environment and would have ensured they remained within the public sphere.

At the urging of former member, Gerry Rattray, the HVC successfully lobbied to keep the artillery pieces in Hamilton. Conservation and restoration of the pieces at a cost of approx. \$25,000 was completed in 2012. Since that time, the pieces have been in storage as there is no suitable indoor space for their display.

With the recent interest of the RHLI Auchmar Trust is there a possibility that the artillery pieces could be on display at Auchmar.

Staff will confirm a tour of Tourism and Culture storage to view the refurbished artillery pieces.

5. STANDING ITEMS (includes all HVC hosted events)

The experienced members of the committee asked that as the new members attend the HVC hosted events they have an eye as to how the events can be improved.

5.1 Decoration Day – Woodland Cemetery (Upper Field) – Sunday, June 12, 2016

This service occurs annually on the 2nd Sunday in June.

Post event report – Sarah Ehmke, Cultural Projects Specialist

The service was well attended. The committee had no significant issues with the service. Thanks go to the Cemetery staff for their always good work in ensuring the Fields of Honour are maintained.

5.2 Dieppe Memorial – Wednesday, August 19, 2016

- Staff to attend August 9, 2016

This service is hosted by the RHLI with organizational assistance from the Hamilton Veterans Committee.

5.3 East Hamilton Decoration Day – Sunday, August 28, 2016

This service occurs annually on the 4th Sunday in August.

- Staff to attend August 9, 2016
- Host: RHLI Veterans Organization

Bill Eisan, long term member of the HVC, is the impetus behind this event. In recent years, due to Bill's advanced age, the HVC has assisted with the organization of the event. The hosting of this service rotates each year between RHLI Veterans Organization, Hamilton Navy Vets, Veterans Service League and RCL Branch 58.

5.4 Remembrance Day

General note: When November 11 falls on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday the Garrison Parade will be on the preceding Sunday. When November 11 falls on a Thursday or Friday the Garrison Parade will be on the following Sunday.

Garrison Parade – Sunday, November 13, 2016

City Service – Friday, November 11, 2016

- Staff to attend August 9, 2016
- All three commanding officers (Argylls, RHLLI, Star) to be invited to the August or September meeting.
- 31 Signals Commanding Officer and RSM would like to take part.

5.5 BUDGET Review

- Event Expense Review –
Councillor Pasuta contacted Dave Dixon, Director of Transit (prior to his leaving the City). Transit has no funds to cover the costs of HSR buses for Veterans' events. Councillor Merulla suggested we take the request to the Emergency and Community Services Committee (ECS).

Staff to prepare a motion for Councillor B. Johnson to take to ECS.

5.6 WWI Anniversary Commemorations – 2014-2018

This will remain on the Agenda in anticipation of future anniversary commemorations in which the HVC may be asked to be involved.

5.7 Upcoming Events

- July 1st - mini Tattoo at DNHS
- July 1st – Navy Vets Parade at 1:00 p.m.
- Aug 18th – Candlelight Vigil at Dieppe Memorial at 7:30 p.m.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Veterans Affairs Delivery Roundtables

Information distributed at the meeting.

MP Bob Bratina is a member of the House of Commons Veterans Committee. During the summer recess he is looking to do a couple of Roundtables with Veterans on the subject of "VAC SERVICE DELIVERY TO VETERANS". Most helpful would be VAC clients so that they can offer their perspectives on how VAC currently delivers services and how it could be improved.

Staff will provide names to Geordie Elms who will pass them on to MP Bratina.

Group 1 - Modern Veterans – Rod, Ed, Dan, Michael

Group 2 - Traditional Veterans – Art, Bob, Marko, Ed

Rod attended one of the Roundtables in Mississauga. He was the only one that was a VA client and feels to be useful it should be people that receive services.

6.2 National Defence Policy Review Roundtable

Information distributed at the meeting.

Invitation from MP David Sweet for members to attend a roundtable on July 6 at 2 p.m. (Mount Hope) or 7 p.m. (Waterdown).

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Next Meeting:

August 9, 2016

10:00 a.m. to Noon

City Hall, Room 192, 1st floor